

Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Lin Yang. I am here to testify in support of bill No. SB359, with a request to change a portion of the current bill language.

The issue of concern is Asian registry, that mandates Asian American children to register at school with ethnicity or ancestry nation of origin. The proponents claimed this will disclose disparity among students and better direct government resource. Many states, including the three states surrounding CT had established Asian registry or are in the process of doing so.

However, we strongly disagree. We are in support of helping children who need help, but to determine who needs more help based on ethnicity is simply wrong. It victimized the children in the perceived "doing-well" group who struggle: that they may not get the help they need. It also stereotypes the children in the perceived not-doing-well group. Ethnicity based education is simply BAD education.

Furthermore, Asian registry labels American born kids as perpetual foreigners. Though we are proud to carry our heritage, at the government and policy level, every citizen shall be treated equally as American. Ethnicity profiling in name of data collection always leads to discrimination even with the best intention.

Therefore, we support the original concept of bill SB359, which is "prohibiting educational institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation of data from students by subpopulations of national origin or ethnicity".

However, we are very concerned in regard of this portion of the current bill language "unless ... collected uniformly across the entire population of students". If it is wrong and harmful and against American values to do Asian Registry, to register every student based on ethnicity, does not make it right.

Please modify the bill language to "No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry nation of origin and ethnicity". Please vote for bill SB359.

We thank the committee for giving us a chance of being heard.

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